5   METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ANALYZING A
         MEDIA PATH IN A PACKET SWITCHED NETWORK

                          ABSTRACT

         No-op media payload packets are used to analyze a media path in a packet switched

10   network. In one embodiment, the no-op packets are Real Time Protocol (RTP) payload

      packets that contain no media content. A Real Time Control Protocol (RTCP) report is

      generated for the received RTP no-op packets. A marker bit is set in one of the no-op packets

      that triggers the no-op packet receiver to send back the RTCP report. The media steam is

      transmitted when the statistics in the RTCP report indicate a viable media path.

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